Viability of Haldia Fertilizer Plant

527. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY :

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any proposals from the union of Haldia Fertilizer Plant for making the unit viable;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. These proposals have been discussed with the representatives of workers. However, the final outcome would depend upon the technical and financial viability of the proposed investments and availability of funds through budgetary sources.

Government directives to pharmaceutical Industry Association

528. SHRI ASHIS SEN :

SHRI MOHAMMAD AMIN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's directives to the Pharmaceutical Industry Association regarding practice of charging more than notified rate on price-controlled bulk drugs have had any effect; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Association to such directives so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) and (b) There has been slight decrease in number of complaints of overcharging. However, the Indian Drug Manufacturers Association feels that the Drug Pricing Policy under Drug (Price Control) Order, 1987 is not pragmatic and the prices fixed under DPCO are generally unrealistic.

Production of Industrial spirit

529. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what was the production of industrial spirit in India during the last three years; and

(b) what was the import of industrial spirit and its value during that period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMIMALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) Industrial spirit is Ethyl Alcohol (Ethanol) used in industrial applications. The production of ethanol and the quantities used in industrial applications during the last three alcohol years are as follows :

(in lakh litres)

Alcohol year.	Total production	Qty. used in industrial applications.
1988-89 . .	7973	3127
1989-90 . .	9278	3076
1990-91 . .	10,149	4597

(b) No import of industrial spirit has been reported during this period.

BICP recommendations on prices of Betamethasone

530. SHRI NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of price increases recommended by the BICP in its various reports submitted after implementation of DPCO, 1979, in respect of Betamethasone and its salts;

(b) what are the prices notified by Government after DPCO, 1979 for Betamethasone and its salts and whether it is a fact that there is a vast difference between BICP recommended prices and Government approved prices;

(c) if so, the difference in each case and what are the reasons for the same;

(d) whether it is a fact that the producer has been given benefit; and if so, what are the details of such benefit;

(e) whether it is a fact that Murthy Committee's recommendation for increase in price of Betamathasone and its salts was wrong and without any basis; and

(f) if so, whether any study was made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) to (c) In the pharmaceutical sector, BICP conducts the cost-cum-technical studies of the bulk drugs for the purpose of price fixation. BICP is only a recommendatory body, and its recommendations are confidential in nature. The prices of Betamethasone and its salts as notified by the Government from time to time after DPCO, 1979 are given in the attached statement. (*See below*)

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

Date of Notification	Betamethasone Alcohol Rs/Kg.	Betamethasone Valeorate Rs./Kg.	Betamethasone di-Sodium Sulphate Rs./Kg.
12-5-1981 . . .	113.34	105.81	126.23
20-11-1986 . . .	127.70	122.00	135.00
2-1-1989 . . .	144.19	136.58	144.58
9-10-1991 . . .	149.42	143.31	149.21
28-10-1992 . . .	164.89	164.29	Exempted from price control on the basis of R&D.

Adverse impact of new pricing policy on indigenous fertilizer units

531. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : SHRI N.E. BALARAM :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the new pricing policy for fertilizers has adverse impact on the indigenous fertilizer manufacturing units; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what steps are being taken/proposed to be taken to protect the interest of the indigenous fertilizer manufacturers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Government have, in recent past, taken measures to provide relief to the fertilizer industry. These measures are —abolition of customs duty on import of capital goods for setting up of new plants and for renovation of old plants, abolition of customs duty on imported phosphoric acid, availability of foreign exchange at official rate for import of raw materials/intermediates for manufacture of DAP and complex fertilizers, etc.

532. [*Transferred to the 4th December, 1992*]

533. [*Transferred to the 4th December, 1992*]

New fertilizer units

534. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up five new fertilizer units during the 8th Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the broad features of the programme indicating the cost, location of plants, and additional capacity to be installed, itemwise;

(c) the steps being taken in that directions; and

(d) whether any NRI and Foreign Collaboration Project has submitted their proposals; if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) to (c) The following fertilizer projects are being set up or likely to come up during the Eighth Five Year Plan, indicating their production capacity, likely investment, location and present status :